

b.) Remarks

During various telephone conferences with the undersigned following issuance of the Advisory Action, the Examiner kindly reported he intended to favorably consider claims along the lines of 1 and 15 above. This amendment is presented in conformity with the Examiner's indication. The dependent claims are simply presented so as to recite various preferred embodiments of the present invention.^{1/}

The Examiner's patient assistance and cooperation in expediting the prosecution of this application, not least by helpfully suggesting acceptable claim terminology, is most gratefully acknowledged.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicant submits that the claims are now in allowable condition. Accordingly, allowance of this application and passage to issue are earnestly solicited.

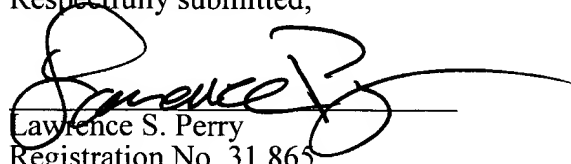
Claims 1, 2, 7, 8 and 14-16 are presented for continued prosecution.

^{1/} As the Examiner will appreciate, the subject matter of the amendment to these dependent claims is as follows:

- 50 to 5,000 units phytase/kg dry feed (page 4, line 18)
- 100 to 1,500 units phytase/kg dry feed (page 4, line 19)
- 250 to 750 units phytase/kg dry feed (page 4, line 19)
- 2.5×10^5 somatic cells/ml in milk prior to treatment (page 9, lines 1-2)

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,


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